

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1979

DATE ENTERED APR 17 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Smith County Courthouse**

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **Court Square** NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN **Carthage** VICINITY OF **Fourth** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE **Tennessee** CODE **47** COUNTY **Smith** CODE **159**

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **County Executive, Smith County**

STREET & NUMBER **Smith County Courthouse**

CITY, TOWN **Carthage** VICINITY OF STATE **Tennessee** 37030

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Smith County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER **Court Square**

CITY, TOWN **Carthage** STATE **Tennessee** 37030

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey**

DATE **January 1977** FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **Tennessee Historical Commission**

CITY, TOWN **Nashville** STATE **Tennessee** 37201

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Smith County Courthouse is located on court square in Carthage. It dominates a knoll overlooking the Cumberland River. In the small town of Carthage, the courthouse has been the most imposing building for more than a century.

Constructed in 1877, this two-story, brick Second Empire building, is covered with a Mansard roof crowned by the traditional courthouse cupola, also rendered in the Second Empire style. The foundation and water table are limestone; encircling the building at the second-floor level is a brick belt course. Paired brackets ornament the eaves. Ornate porthole dormers light the attic space under the Mansard roof; this fenestration pattern repeats in the cupola roof, which still retains its iron cresting.

Alternate projecting sections delineate the five-bay facade (east elevation). The projection of the first and fifth bays, which contain paired windows and at the second level quoins, extends into the roof line, providing a vertical emphasis to the corners of the building. The facade is dominated by a central, projecting pavilion which extends above the Mansard roof line and is surmounted by a pedimented gable roof. Narrow windows flank the entrance of the center pavilion; this element has modern, double-leaf doors, topped with a segmental-arched fanlight; this tripartite configuration repeats at the second-floor level, where the center element is a large window surmounted by a semi-circular fanlight. All of the openings on the first floor are crowned by segmental arches and are recessed in segmental-arched niches. At the second-floor level all of the windows are round-arched and accented by hood molds except for those in the center pavilion which are recessed like those on the first floor. This pattern of round-arched openings is repeated in louvered form in the cupola.

In plan, a center hall bisects the building and is flanked by offices. A stairhall located north of the center hall provides access to the second floor; the courtroom occupies most of that level. The interior has been drastically remodeled and retains only vestiges of the original woodwork; the staircase is the most important surviving interior feature.

The building is symmetrical and situated as it is in the center of a court square was intended to be impressive, regardless of the direction from which it is viewed. Therefore, the same fenestration pattern and decorative details repeat in the main on the other three elevations. The courthouse shares the court square with two ca. 1965 brick-veneered, one-story buildings, one of which houses county offices and the other the county library. The western edge of the court square is a parking lot.

The property nominated is the court square, and the entire tract is owned by Smith County. The tract measures 300 feet by 300 feet and contains approximately 2 acres.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry C. Jackson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The General Assembly created Smith County on October 26, 1799. This Middle Tennessee county was named for Daniel Smith, a Revolutionary War veteran, secretary of the Territory south of the River Ohio, U. S. Senator (1798-99 and 1805-09), and the leader of the survey team which traced the boundary between Tennessee and Kentucky. The county was formally organized on December 16, 1799. The first courthouse was erected in Carthage in 1805 and continued in use until it was replaced in 1877 by the present building. Henry C. Jackson of Murfreesboro built the courthouse.

The Smith County Courthouse is one of only two such buildings in Tennessee built in the Second Empire style. Although it has been sandblasted, its exterior remains remarkably original in appearance. With its projecting pavilion, varied window treatments, and architecturally conforming cupola with original cresting, it is one of the finest examples of the Second Empire style in Tennessee. Of the two Tennessee courthouses in the Second Empire style, this one better illustrates this architectural expression.

The county court, when faced with the need for more office space, chose not to add to the existing courthouse; instead a building was erected to the rear of the 1877 courthouse, and both of these buildings house county offices.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crane, Sophie and Paul, Tennessee Taproots, Old Hickory, Tenn.: Earle-Shields Publishers, c. 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

QUADRANGLE NAME Carthage, Tennessee

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 59,40,7,0 4,01,21,5,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a square lot which measures 300 feet by 300 feet and is bounded as follows: beginning at the southeast corner of Water Street and Third Avenue; thence east along the south edge of Third Avenue approximately 300 feet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE January 1979

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville

STATE Tennessee 37201

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Hays

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE 2/22/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

for Charles W. Berry
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4.17.79

ATTEST: *W. M. B. Smith*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4/16/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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to the southwest corner of Third Avenue and Main Street, thence south along the west edge of Main Street approximately 300 feet to the northwest corner of Main Street and Second Avenue; thence west along the north edge of Second Avenue approximately 300 feet to the northeast corner of Second Avenue and Water Street, thence north along the west edge of Water Street approximately 300 feet to the beginning.